

PLIOCERCUS EURYZONUS COPE:
AN ADDITION TO THE SNAKE
FAUNA OF HONDURAS

Studies in progress on the snake fauna of Honduras revealed the presence of a specimen of *Pliocercus euryzonus* (MCZ 22911) from Tela, Depto. Atlántida, misidentified as *Tropidodipsas sartorii*. This specimen represents the first record of the species from Honduras, even though it is known to occur north and south of this country. The species is now known to inhabit low, moderate, and intermediate elevations along the Atlantic versant from central Guatemala to Brazil (Peters and Orejas-Miranda, Bull. U.S. Nat. Mus., 297:1-347, 1970). It seems likely that the nominal species *Pliocercus annellatus* Taylor, *P. arubricus* Taylor, and *P. dimidiatus* Cope are based on specimens of *Pliocercus euryzonus* (fide Scott, Ph.D. dissertation, Univ. Southern California, 1969, by inference).

The Honduran specimen, a female, has 25 black bands on the body separated by light (red in life?) interspaces one and one-half to two scales in length. The head is black to the middle of the parietals except for a light spot on the first and second supralabials. This black cap is followed by a light nuchal band, which extends to the posterior tip of the parietals. There are 134 ventrals, a divided anal plate, and 1 + 1 temporals, in which features *P. euryzonus* is easily distinguishable from *T. sartorii*, which has over 165 ventrals, a single anal plate, and usually 1 + 2 temporals. The tail of MCZ 22911 is incomplete.

The locality from which this specimen came lies within the Tropical Moist Forest formation or tropical lowland rainforest.

The specimen corresponds to the diagnosis for *P. e. aequalis*; a subspecies which is stated by Stuart (Misc. Publ., Mus. Zool., Univ. Michigan, 122:1-150, 1963) and Peters and Orejas-Miranda (1970) to occur only in central Guatemala. However, it probably ranges south at least to Costa Rica; the specimens upon which the above-mentioned probable synonyms of *P. euryzonus* are based came from this latter country.

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A NEW SPECIES OF
MICROTROMBICULA
(ACARINA: TROMBICULIDAE)
FROM HIDALGO, MÉXICO

Studies of the New World *Microtrombicula* Ewing by Vercammen-Grandjean (1965), Webb and Loomis

(1970, 1971a, b, and c), and Loomis and Webb (1972) have resulted in the recognition of three subgenera and 26 species. This new species from Hidalgo, México, tentatively placed in the subgenus *Scapusculata*, is of special interest because of its extremely small size and the absence of certain nude leg setae characteristic of other species of *Microtrombicula*.

Microtrombicula jacalae, new species

Figure 1

Types.—Larvae: Holotype and 21 paratypes from 13 km NE Jacala, 1585 m, Hidalgo, México, from ears of five *Peromyscus boylii levipes* Merriam, original numbers EMF 70-329 (holotype and 4 paratypes), EMF 70-324 (3), EMF 70-325 (1), EMF 70-327 (2),

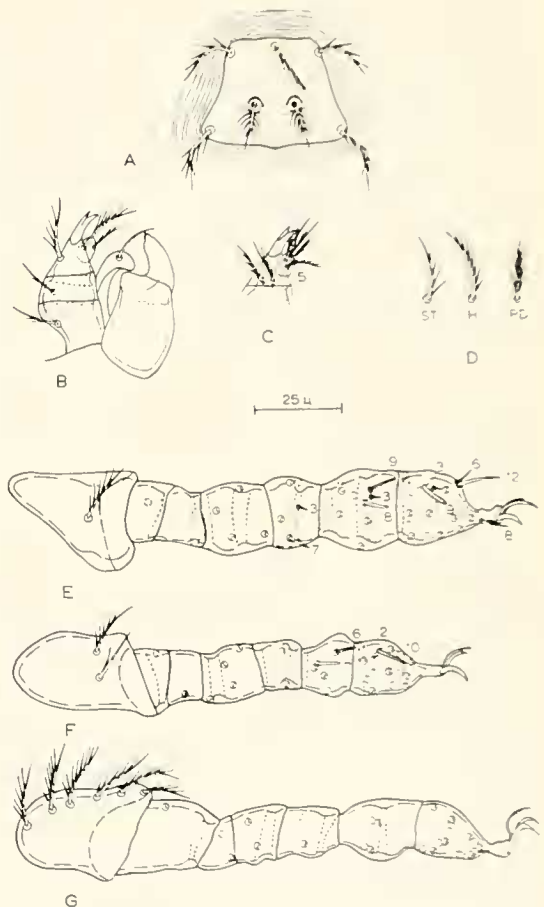


Figure 1. *Microtrombicula jacalae*, new species. A. Scutum. B. Dorsal aspect of gnathosoma. C. Ventral aspect of palpal tibia and tarsus. D. Setae: ST, sternal seta; H, humeral; PD, posterior dorsal. E. Leg I, showing nude setae with measurements and bases of branched setae. F. Leg II, as above. G. Leg III, as above.

and EMF 70-328 (10) taken 30 June 1970, and B69989 (1) from *Peromyscus* sp. taken 2 September 1965, all collected by Eric M. Fisher. The holotype and one paratype will be deposited in the collection of the Rocky Mountain Laboratory, Hamilton, Montana. Other paratypes now in the chigger research collection at California State University, Long Beach will be sent to appropriate institutions.

Diagnosis: Genuae II and III, tibiae III and pretarsala II absent; eyes absent; 1 genua I; coxa III with 5-7 branched setae; coxa II with 2 setae, 1 branched and 1 nearly nude; three pairs of sternal setae; palpotibial claw bifurcate; tarsus III with 13 branched setae (mastitarsala absent); galeala nude.

Description of holotype (measurements in microns, with mean and range of 19 types in parentheses, unless otherwise noted).—Body engorged, 175 by 115; eyes absent.

Dorsal setae 2 (humeral)-6-6-6-4-4, total 28; measurements of humeral seta 17, anterior dorsal seta 19, posterior dorsal seta 22.

Ventral setae 2-2-2 (sternals)-4-2-2-4-4-6-2-2, total 32; measurements of anterior sternal seta 16, anterior ventral seta 15, posterior ventral seta 19.

Scutum: Subpentagonal; sensilla extremely short with 8-10 long setules along shaft.

Sental measurements: AW 23 (24.3, 22-26; 18), PW 35 (35.5, 32-38), SB 11 (11.2, 10-12), ASB 20 (20.6, 19-23; 18), PSB 13 (13.9, 12-16), AP 25 (24.4, 22-26), AM 16 (15.6, 14-17; 16), AL 14 (14.8, 14-19; 18), PL 22 (20.1, 19-22; 16), S 12 (12.7, 10-15; 7).

Gnathosoma: Cheliceral blade small with small tricuspid cap; cheliceral base and capitular sternum lightly punctate. Galeala nude. Palpal setae B/B/BBB; palpal tarsus with one nude and five branched setae, tarsala 4; palpotibial claw bifurcate with dorsal prong slightly shorter than the recurved ventral prong.

Legs: Segments 7-7-7, extremely short and compressed, each leg ending in 2 claws and clawlike empodium without onychotriches. Leg I with genua 7 and tarsala 9 (8.2, 7-9; 18), pretarsala, subterminala and parasubterminala; leg II with coxa bisetose, 2 tibialae and tarsala 10 (8.9, 8-10), pretarsala absent; leg III with coxa multisetose (5-7 branched setae) and lacking nude setae.

Leg measurements (including, in parentheses, the mean and range of five types): I 36 (125, 116-136); II 114 (107, 92-114); III 131 (130, 117-131); total 381 (358, 325-381).

Taxonomic remarks.—This species is tentatively placed into the subgenus *Scapuscutala*, because of the general similarities to the other species. Also the absence of certain nude leg setae may be correlated with the extremely short leg segments.

The two setae on coxa II also have been recorded for two other species of *Microtrombicula* from West Pakistan (Traub and Nadchatram, 1966) and a larva of *M. trisetica* from Durango, México (Webb and Loomis, 1971c).

Ecological notes.—Of 95 traps set along paths in an oak woodland among or adjacent to limestone outcroppings, five of six trapped *Peromyscus boylii* had *M. jacalae* and a few trombiculid larvae of the genera *Pseudoschoengastia* and *Leptotrombidium*.

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The 1973 annual meetings of the Southern California Academy of Sciences will be held on May 4 and 5, 1973 at California State University, Long Beach. Technical papers are solicited from the fields of natural and social sciences.

Abstracts of no more than 150 words must be typed on 3 × 5 cards and *must be received no later than March 26, 1973*. The first line of the abstract is to include author(s), student or professional, preferred section (see below), and type of projection equipment, if needed. *Send abstracts to: Donald R. Patten, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, Exposition Park, Los Angeles, California 90007.*

Technical sessions—Anthropology, Archaeology, Botany, Earth Science, Entomology, Experimental Biology, Folklore, History, Invertebrate Zoology, Marine Science, and Vertebrate Zoology (other sections will be opened to accommodate demand).

Student awards will be presented in the Natural Science and Social Science Divisions. First award in each division will be \$150.00; second award in each division \$75.00.

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